Essential Equity: Women, Covid-19 and Rebuilding CT

Frequently Asked Questions
Q: What is Essential Equity: Women, Covid-19 and Rebuilding CT?

Essential Equity: Women, Covid-19 and Rebuilding CT is a report that documents the disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on women and girls, and particularly on women and girls of color, across areas of health, economic security, child care, housing, mental health, safety, and hunger.

The report calls for gender and racial equity to be centered in relief and recovery. It also highlights that effective economic recovery will not be possible without strong participation from women. 49% of CT’s workforce is female and 48% of those are essential workers. Without child care and paths to careers with family-sustaining wages, women will not have economic security and the larger CT economy will not improve.

Q: Who created the Essential Equity report?

Essential Equity is a collaboration between funders and member organizations of the Connecticut Collective for Women and Girls and the Connecticut Data Collaborative (CTData). The report is the work of a powerful collaboration of women’s funds and women and girls serving organizations statewide.

Report Funders include:

Aurora Women and Girls Foundation
Community Fund for Women and Girls of the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven
Fund for Women and Girls of Fairfield County’s Community Foundation
the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation in honor of their Women’s funds
Women and Girls Funds of the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut

CTData compiled the data and analyzed it for the report. Analyses include publicly available administrative and survey data at the state level, disaggregated by sex, race, and ethnicity when available (see Resources). In addition, the Household Public Survey, a product of the U.S. Census Bureau in collaboration with five federal agencies, provided data on the social and economic impacts of Covid-19 (See Appendix B for more details). Unless otherwise stated, data covers the time periods of January 1 to September 30 for 2019 and 2020.
Q: Why is this report important?

As advocates for women and girls, we knew that systems of sexism and racism already disadvantaged women and girls and we braced ourselves for how the Covid-19 economic and health crisis would further harm them. This report documents that harm. We have measured the negative impact so that we can begin to address it with significant investments in caregiving, healthcare, housing, and education and job training to provide relief and recovery that meets the need. This data also makes clear that women are a driving force in Connecticut’s economy, and any effective plan to recover and rebuild needs to center women workers.

Q: What does the report reveal?

Findings from the report call for attention and action:

- 30% increase in calls to the Safe Connect domestic violence hotline
- 70% of females who identify their race or ethnicity as Other experienced a loss of income since March
- 300% increase in SNAP applications for food assistance
- 75% of females who applied for initial and continuing unemployment did not have a college degree. Females surpassed males in unemployment claims for the first time in Connecticut’s history and throughout the pandemic.

Q: How can I help?

Download the report and learn about the grave issues facing women and girls in Connecticut and how equitable solutions will build a recovery that benefits everyone.

Download here: https://www.aurorafoundation.org/essential-equity

Then join us for a virtual conference call on Thursday, January 28 from 9-10am to take part in the discussion. Register at http://bit.ly/Womenandgirls

Contact your State Representative and Senator about this important issue, encouraging them to read the report and join the virtual conference call. We make it easy to do so here: https://bit.ly/EssentialRep
**Q: What will be discussed at the Press Conference?**

We have invited funding partners and advocates of women and girls in Connecticut to share expert insight into data from the report. We also have invited women who have personally been impacted by the pandemic this past year to tell their story, bringing the data into vivid illustration.

The agenda as of January 17, 2021 is as follows:

1. Overview of report, Dr. Jennifer Steadman, Executive Director, Aurora Foundation
2. Data Sources and Methodology, Michelle Riordan-Nold, CTData
3. The stories of impact  
   a. Women Job Loss/Leaving the Workforce  
   b. Childcare Crisis –All Our Kin for Child Care Provider  
   c. Eviction Crisis-- Alexis Smith, New Haven Legal Assistance
4. Call to Action, Tricia Hyacinth, Women & Girls Fund, Fairfield County’s Community Foundation

**Q: When is the Press Conference?**

This press conference will share the critical information found in the *Essential Equity: Women, Covid-19 and Rebuilding CT*.

The press conference is a virtual event, scheduled for Thursday, January 28, 9:00-10:00 am

**Q: Who can attend?**

We invite community leaders, legislators, other agencies, and all who are investing in the success and security of women and girls in our region.

**Q: How can we attend?**


**Q: Who is the Aurora Foundation?**

The Aurora Foundation serves as a catalyst for change in the lives of women and girls in Greater Hartford, with the intended effect of unlocking the potential of their families and surrounding communities.
We focus on the issues of Women and Girls in greater Hartford by conducting research and convening the community to promote collaboration on issues; educate and engage men and women in the power of philanthropy to improve social and economic outcomes; and we implement strategies – including targeted grantmaking – that take aim at obstacles.

**Q: Who do we contact you for more information?**

You may email us at Jsteadman@aurorafoundation.org

You may call us at (860) 969-3435

You may also send us mail at

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Find us also on Social Media at

Aurora Foundation (@aurorawomen) • Instagram photos and videos

(1) Aurora Foundation (@aurorawomen) / Twitter

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